ASCS Today

USDA seeks program input

By TOM CONRAD

USDA REQUESTS COMMENTS ON 1985 FEED GRAIN PROGRAM - The U. S. Department of Agriculture is seeking public comment on some aspects of the 1985 feed grain program prior to making a decision on the program.

USDA will study the public's recommendations along with current data on U.S. and world crop conditions and crop supply and demand before announcing the 1985 program.

Specifically USDA would like to receive comments on:

--the loan and purchase level;
--the established target price;
--the national program acreage;
--whether there should be a voluntary reduction percentage and, if so, what percentage;
--whether there should be an acreage reduction program and, if so, what percentage and how to establish the acreage bases for the acreage reduction program;
--whether a set aside requirement is necessary and, if so, what percentage;

--whether there should be a land diversion program and, if so, the extent of such diversion and the level of payment;
--whether barley should be eligible for payment purposes under the feed grain program;
--whether malting barley should be exempt from any acreage reduction program;
--if an acreage reduction or set-aside program is necessary, whether to allow haying and grazing of acreage conservation reserve acreage;
--provisions of the farmer-owned reserve;
--whether to require offsetting compliance if an acreage reduction program is established;
--Whether non-recourse loans and purchases should be made available to producers who cut their corn crop for silage; and
--whether contracts that producers sign to participate in the program should be binding after signup period.

Current law stipulates that if USDA estimates the quanitity of corn on hand in the United States on Sept. 30, 1985 will exceed 1.1 billion bushels, a cash land diversion program of not less than 5 percent must be provided and an acreage reduction program may be provided.

If a combination cash land diversion and acreage reduction program is offered, the total reduction may not exceed 20 percent.

Any required reduction in excess of 15 percent must be equally apportioned between a cash land diversion program and an acreage reduction program.

The payment rate for any cash land diversion for corn cannot be less than $1.50 per bushel.

Details of program options USDA is considering are scheduled to appear in the June 6 Federal Register.

Comments should be sent to Director. Analysis Division, Room 3741-S, ASCS-USDA, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013. The comments, which must be received no later than Aug. 6, will be available for public inspection in that room during regular business hours.

LYNN PAGDET, newly elected president of the Appomattox County High School FFA Chapter, is shown presenting a check for $1,000.00 to Robert (Bob) McClenny, past president of the Appomattox FFA Alumni Association. This contribution from the Appomattox FFA Chapter will be used by the Alumni Association to help pay part of the remaining debt on the land laboratory. In November of 1983, the Appomattox FFA Alumni Association acquired title with a deed of trust to a 20 acre tract of land adjoining the high school site from Mr. and Mrs. Fred Jones. According to the Alumni treasurer, Mr. Marvin House, Jr., only $8,000.00 is needed to finish payment. "Our group has raised $14,000.00 and it is anticipated that we will be debt-free by the time of our annual meeting in late October," states Marvin, who has been involved with the Association for the past ten years. Individuals or companies who would like to share in the purchasing of the property are requested to send donations to Marvin House, Jr., Route 4, Appomattox, Virginia 24522.

June 15 is last date for planting insured tobacco

June 15 is the final planting date for insured tobacco in Appomattox County, according to Mary E. Goodwyn, District Director for the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC).

"Acres of tobacco planted by June 15, insured by FCIC (or by a private company reinsured by FCIC), must be reported by July 15 to receive full crop insurance coverage," says Goodwyn.

Acreage planted after June 15 should also be reported on the July 15 acreage report (in the "remarks" section) as being planted too late for insurance coverage.

"The final planting date of June 15 is the latest date established by FCIC to plant and expect a normal crop to be produced. Crops initially planted after this date are not insurable unless a late planting agreement is signed by the final planting date," Goodwyn said.

Farmers wishing to discuss local conditions, such as excessive moisture, that may affect planting should contact their local, authorized crop insurance agent as soon as possible.

Festival tickets now on sale

Tickets for the annual Amelia Beer Festival are now on sale, according to the Tom Scott Park Association.

The festival will be held July 18, rain or shine at the Tom Scott Park in Amelia.

Tickets are $15 each and may be obtained from the Tom Scott Park Association, P.O. Box 494, Amelia, VA 23002. For further information, call 561-2153 or 561-2155.

The South 40

Strawberries winding down

By JAMES A. AMITH
Extension Agent

Rapidly the '84 strawberry crop is winding down. This is an amazing crop that can be highly productive when properly fertilized, weeds are controlled and moisture is adequate.

Strawberries need to be renovated as soon as production is completed. When a site is renovated, it means removing top growth, thinning, removal of weeds, fertilizing, applying herbicides and irrigating if necessary.

Strawberries are one of the easiest crops to grow, but the basic steps must be followed. I'll walk you through those steps.

Remember when it comes to herbicide use, you will need to measure them in ounces and they are currently available only as wettable powders. I use a coffee can to hold the herbicide and a set of kitchen scales for weighing.

A fan tip nozzle is preferred for putting the herbicide down. One gallon of water will cover 1,000 square feet for me, but you need to measure off this much space, 10 feet by 100 feet, and calibrate your pace to the area to be covered. Use plain water for the calibration process.

1. Use your lawn mower to remove top growth from the berry plants. Leave one to one and one-half inches of stub in order not to injure the crown.

2. Cultivate row middles and thin plants in the row, leaving 6 to 8 inch space between plants.

3. Remove old mulch, weeds, top growth, excess plants.

4. Apply nitrogen (Nitrate of soda or ammonium nitrate) ½ to ¾ pound per 100 foot of row.

5. Apply two herbicides--They may be tank mixed: Enide 90W at 4.4 to 6.6 pounds per acre or 2.2 ounces per 1,000 square feet, plus Tenoran 50W at 6.0 to 8.0 pounds per acre or 2.9 ounces per 1,000 square feet.

6. If rain is not expected within 24 hours, irrigate with one inch water.

7. In mid-August, apply 10-10-10 rate of one pound per 100-foot row.

8. Before the ground freezes in late November, early December, apply two herbicides: Tenoran, same rate as above (Do not use but twice during year), plus Devrinal 50W, rate 4.0 to 8.0 pounds per acre (use 4.0 pound rate to newly established planting and higher rate to well established planting). At 4.0 pound rate use 1.5 ounces per 1,000 square feet or 2.9 ounces per 1,000 square feet at 8 pound rate. Do not use Devrinal but once a year.

Devrinal breaks down readily; therefore, irrigate within 3 to 5 days in cold weather or better yet, mulch with pine tags or small grain straw.

The summer picnic for the Appomattox Cattlemen's Association will be held June 27, 6:30 p.m., Charles Farris Farm. Charles is doing several things that will be of interest to you--use of rye to creep graze and sod plant corn, broiler litter to reduce protein cost and wintering steer program.

Some growers may have some disappointments with no-til this season. There aren't any short cuts to good weed control, but we sure didn't get them all this spring. Don't give up--learn from mistakes. No-til is the way to go.

In some corn, a wick applicator will take out some problem weeds now, but in a few days corn will be too high.

Stubble planting beans and corn will be on us this week as barley and wheat silage come off. We need to do a good job on weed control and seed placement. Here are some steps that we feel are essential for soybean planting:

1. If you did not apply extra fertilizer to your small grain, put on 300-500 pounds per acre of 0-10-20 fertilizer or equivalent.

2. Plant in narrow rows--20 inches or less is preferable.

3. Use a burn down herbicide such as Paraquat or Roundup plus surfactant.

4. Plant treated seed 1½ inches deep in firm contact with mineral soil. This requires a sharp coulter to cut through the straw.

5. Plant to a final population of 150,000 plants per acre. This is 6 plants per foot of row in 20 inch rows (2 plants per foot for 7 inch rows).

6. Use a preemergence residual grass control herbicide and a broadleaf control herbicide. Grass control herbicides are Dual, Lasso, Bronco* (Bronco also contains Roundup and serves as a burn down herbicide), Prowl. Surflan and Amiben. Broadleaf control herbicides are Lorox, Dyanap, Klean Crop, Ancrack, Preemerge 3, Dinitro, Sencor and Lexone.

Carefully read label directions. Damage to crop can occur if recommended rates are exceeded.

7. Scout the crop carefully throughout the season for weeds, insects and diseases.

8. Control escaped weeds early.

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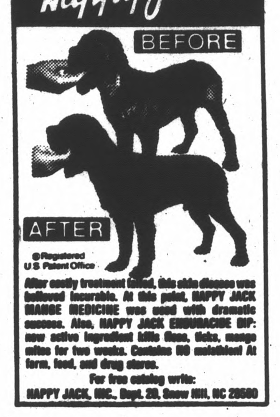

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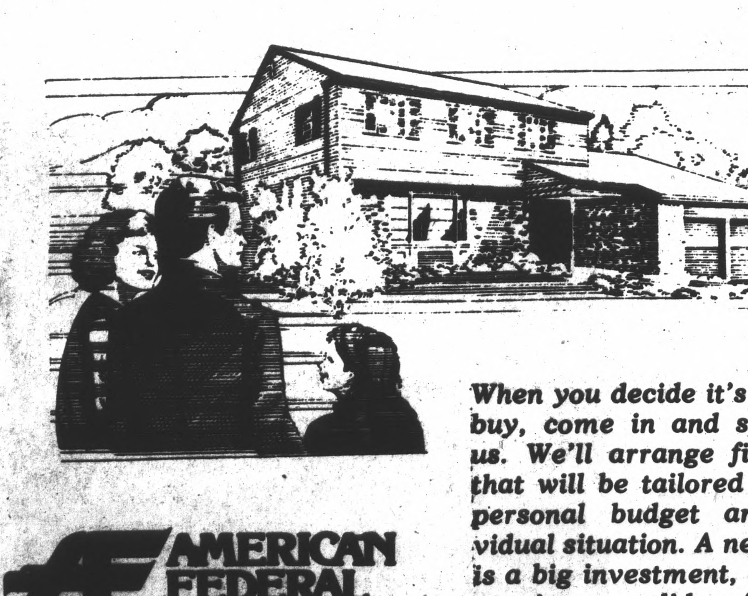

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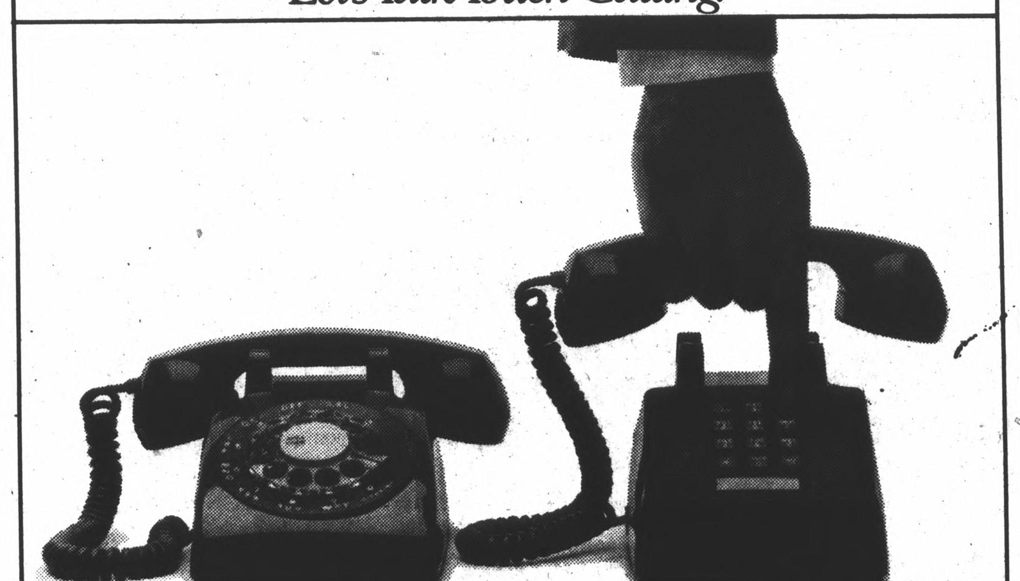

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